GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:107
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
AIR POLLUTION IN METROPOLITAN CITIES
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution in the metropolitan cities is rapidly increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce air pollution in these cities?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) ,(b),(c)& (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a), (b), (c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.107 FOR 27.11.2 REGARDING AIR POLLUTION IN METROPOLITAN CITIES

(a),(b)&(c) The air pollution load in the metropolitan cities exhibit an increasing trend due to increase in economic activities, urbanization and industrialization. The ambient air quality is monitored regularly through a network of monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.The annual averages of criteria air pollutants in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai during the last two years are as follows:-

(Annual Average in micro gram per cubic metre)

Metropolitan	Sulphur dioxide		Nitrogen dioxide		Suspended Particulate Matter	
Cities	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Delhi	15.8	16.3	28.6	26.5	341	351
Mumbai	16.1	14.4	22.1	29.9	212	247
Chennai	10.5	8.2	22.3	14.0	116	77
Calcutta	31.0	31.5	30.9	29.2	275	268

(d) The Government has taken various steps to control pollution in the country which include the following:-

(i) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(ii) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipments before commissioning of their plants.

(iii) Industries are required to take consents from the respective State Pollution Control Boards under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(iv) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.

(v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

(vi) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in Delhi.